TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 20, 1992 -- Carload freight traffic dropped slightly during the week end August 15 from year-earlier levels, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

However, Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's Economics and Finance Department, noted, "Despite the decline in carloadings, a number of key commodities -- such as motor vehicles, lumber and wood products and crushed stone, sand and gravel -- showed strength last week, and intermodal continues to run well ahead of last year."

In all, major railroads originated 336,507 carloads of freight during the week ended August 15, down just 183 cars or 0.1 percent from the comparable week in 1991. Intermodal traffic, which is not included in carloads, was up 6.0 percent, totalling 133,441 containers and trailers. Estimated ton-miles were up 1.4 percent, totalling 21.2 billion.

For the first 33 weeks of 1992, the AAR reported carloadings totaled 10,593,083, up 1.5 percent from the same period of 1991. Intermodal volume was 4,110,394 trailers and containers, up 7.7 percent from 1991. Ton-miles for the first 33 weeks were estimated at 667.3 billion, up 3.5 percent from last year.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of rail carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	25,333	26,373	-3.9 %	25,221	0.4 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,038	819	26.7	1,015	2.3
Metallic Ores	19,344	19,884	-2.7	18,577	4.1
Coal	129,114	133,401	-3.2	124,917	3.4
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	16,404	14,645	12.0	15,526	5.7
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,240	9,695	-4.7	9,212	0.3
Grain Mill Products	10,210	10,471	-2.5	10,554	-3.3
Food & Kindred Products	9,358	9,203	1.7	9,354	0.0
Primary Forest Products	8,968	8,978	-0.1	9,175	-2.3
Lumber & Wood Products	5,564	5,266	5.7	5,345	4.1
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,490	10,647	-1.5	10,346	1.4
Chemicals	28,169	28,129	0.1	27,548	2.3
Petroleum Products	6,009	5,713	5.2	6,317	-4.9
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,913	9,613	3.1	9,933	-0.2
Coke	5,895	4,931	19.5	5,799	1.7
Metals & Products	9,436	9,531	-1.0	8,783	7.4
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	16,288	14,274	14.1	13,440	21.2
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,838	8,366	5.6	8,265	6.9
All Other Carloads	6,896	6,751	2.1	7,033	-1.9
Total	336,507	336,690	-0.1 %	326,360	3.1 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 33 WEEKS ENDING AUGUST 15, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	336,507	336,690	-0.1 %	10,593,083	10,433,837	1.5 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	64,916	63,190	2.7	2,032,369	1,963,102	3.5
Containers	68,525	62,718	9.3	2,078,025	1,852,526	12.2
Total	133,441	125,908	6.0	4,110,394	3,815,628	7.7
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	21.2	20.9	1.4 %	667.3	644.7	3.5 %